

Hartford

Courant

VOLUME CLXXXIV NUMBER 155

COURANT.COM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Deaths double over last year

Twice as many fatalities in May compared to 2019, largely due to coronavirus

By ALEX PUTTERMAN

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner recorded nearly twice as many Connecticut deaths in May 2020 as compared to May 2019, largely due to coronavirus-associated fatalities. Reported deaths were down about 25% from April, when the

COVID-19 outbreak peaked in Connecticut and the medical examiner recorded more than twice as many deaths as in previous years. Those figures include only deaths reported to the medical examiner, which make up about two-thirds of all deaths in the state, Chief Medical Examiner

James Gill said. Gill said his office recorded 3,448 total deaths in May, 1,604 more than last year, for an 87% increase. Of those deaths, 1,453 had COVID-19 listed on the death certificate, accounting for most but not all of the year-over-year disparity. Officials say some of the 151 remaining excess deaths could

be undiagnosed COVID-19 victims, while others could result from patients failing to seek medical attention for serious health issues. “The public health and medical professionals we’ve spoken to suggest that is likely a combination of some COVID cases that are not identified ... but probably

more likely has to do with people avoiding care,” said Josh Geballe, the state’s chief operating officer. Gill said the discrepancy between excess deaths and reported COVID-19 deaths could also owe to typical month-to-month variation or to increases in other types

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Gov. Ned Lamont is broadening eligibility for unemployment insurance to vulnerable workers.

Lamont expands jobless benefits

Workers vulnerable to virus now eligible

By STEPHEN SINGER

Gov. Ned Lamont is broadening eligibility for unemployment insurance to workers vulnerable to the coronavirus, drawing fire from Connecticut’s largest business group. The governor on Monday issued an executive order allowing the commissioner of labor to find work unsuitable for employees returning to work after a layoff if the site poses an “unreasonable risk” to their health due to the coronavirus. At a news briefing May 8, Lamont said those who are vulnerable to COVID-19 — over 65 and with underlying health problems — “should not be going back to work for the near term.”

“And given that restriction, they would be eligible for unemployment compensation,” he said.

Lamont’s executive order covers unemployment insurance claims submitted between May 17 and July 25 authorizing the state Department of Labor to consider the “degree of risk to the individual’s health or, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the health of a member of that individual’s household.”

If a worker is exposed to an “unreasonable risk” to his or her health due to COVID-19, or risks the health of a member of the employee’s household, the state shall find the work to be unsuitable, according to the

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THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

PROTESTS SPREAD

Towns throughout Connecticut stage peaceful rallies



MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Malibia Hernandez and her son Noah, just under one year old, protest against police brutality across from the South Windsor police department.

Trump: Stop the ‘lowlifes and losers’

By ZEKE MILLER AND MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday turned up the pressure on governors to quell the violence set off by the death of George Floyd, demanding New York call up the National Guard to stop the “lowlifes and losers.”

As more demonstrations be-

gan taking shape around the country, the president amplified his hard-line calls of a day earlier, in which he threatened to send in the military to restore order if governors didn’t do it.

“NYC, CALL UP THE NATIONAL GUARD,” he tweeted. “The lowlifes and losers are ripping you apart. Act fast!

Turn to **Trump**, Page A4

By ELIZA FAWCETT, DON STACOM, KASSI JACKSON AND MICHAEL HAMAD

Days after large protests shut down interstate highways in major Connecticut cities in response to the death of George Floyd during a Minneapolis arrest, rallies against police brutality spread to smaller municipalities and suburbs in the state Tuesday. The peaceful protests were marked by the rage and passion of young demonstrators and some moments of tension as activists called on local political leaders to effect change.

In West Hartford, hundreds gathered in the early evening outside the town hall to express their solidarity with Black Lives Matter. Over the course of an hour and a half, the crowd listened to poetry, songs and personal accounts that conveyed the fear and anguish of being a person of color in America.

“The past few days I haven’t been able to work,” Mimi Gonzalez, 24, an organizer of the protest, said through tears. “I haven’t been able to focus, because I’m too busy thinking about if my dad was

Turn to **Protests**, Page A4

Chronic pain approved for medical marijuana

A legislative committee has given final approval to a provision allowing patients with chronic pain and an inherited disorder that weakens the body’s connective tissue to participate in the state’s medical marijuana program. **Connecticut**, Page B1

CEO presses case

The CEO of the high-profile education partnership that Connecticut entered last year with hedge fund billionaire Ray Dalio is pressing her claim that she’s been “victimized” since she was placed on a paid administrative leave May 7. **Connecticut**, Page B1



HARTFORD COURANT FILE PHOTO

Henry Lee to retire

Henry Lee, 81, above, the world-renowned forensic scientist, has announced he will retire from the University of New Haven in August, the university said Tuesday. **Connecticut**, Page B1

Support for police body cameras

The leader of Connecticut’s state Senate said Tuesday he would support requiring all of the state’s police departments to outfit their officers with body cameras. “I think the time has come to not leave that as a municipal option, but to mandate it for all police,” said Senate President Pro Tem Martin Looney, a New Haven Democrat. **Connecticut**, Page B3

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